Name: _____

Terrifying Tsunamis

By Lydia Lukidis

Trust me, you don't want to get caught under a tsunami! Tsunamis are one of the world's most powerful natural forces. They can swallow up islands in minutes. They can flood and destroy villages. They can create huge amounts of damage.

But do you know exactly what a tsunami (pronounced soo-NAH-mee) is?

Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

floor moves, it creates big holes. The water floods in to fill these holes. When the water moves that quickly, it creates a huge wave. This is how tsunamis are born!

Other natural disasters like landslides, volcanic eruptions, and glaciers breaking off can also cause tsunamis. Once the water starts moving because of the force of the disaster, large waves begin to ripple out. These waves can move very fast. They have been recorded at speeds up to 500 miles per hour! They can also move across very long distances.

At first, the waves of the tsunami may not seem that tall. That's because when the waves travel through the deep parts of the ocean, the top of each wave is very short. But as that wave approaches shallower water, it grows in height. Remember, the tsunami travels quickly. If you are sitting on a beach, you may not see the wave coming at first. But when the wave arrives, it will be like a towering wall of water. Some waves are as tall as 100 feet high. This

wave will rush in and flood the area within minutes. It may be followed by other waves as well.

Though tsunamis can happen anywhere, they usually occur in specific areas like the Pacific Ocean. The countries along the coastline like Japan, Chile, or even the United States are more at risk. The biggest tsunami ever recorded happened in 1958 in Lituya Bay, Alaska. The massive wave was over 1,720 feet tall, and it wiped out trees, vegetation, and everything else in its way.

To increase public safety, scientists can detect when earthquakes are coming. They created the Pacific Tsunami Warning System, based in Hawaii. The detectors can track the earthquakes that may cause tsunamis. If the tsunami is detected early enough, people can be warned and can leave the coastline.

Preview
Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

Name: _____

Terrifying Tsunamis

By Lydia Lukidis

1. Based on the information in the article, which natural disaster is **not** responsible for causing a tsunami?

a. tornado **b.** volcanic eruption
c. earthquake **d.** glacial movement

2. Which of the following is true about tectonic plates?

Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

tsunami forming in the deep ocean or near the coast? Why is this the case?

_____

_____

_____

4. Where would a tsunami be most likely to occur?

a. Cuba **b.** New York City
c. coast of Ireland **d.** Indonesia

5. A tsunami forms in the deep ocean, 1,500 miles off the coast of Sri Lanka. If the tsunami is traveling at 500 miles an hour, how long will it take the tsunami to reach the coast of Sri Lanka?

a. 2 hours **b.** 3 hours
c. 4 hours **d.** 5 hours

Name: _____

Terrifying Tsunamis

By Lydia Lukidis

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. _____ g v t i a e n e o t
hint: *all the plants in a particular area*

Preview
Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

hint: *the outermost layer of the Earth*

5. _____ c t i o c e t n l e p t a s
hint: *pieces of the Earth's crust that move and shift*

6. _____ s m s a v e i
hint: *extremely large in size or scale*

7. _____ s l n a i d e d l
hint: *natural disaster involving falling rock or earth*

8. _____ u L y t i a a B y
hint: *site of the largest tsunami ever recorded*

9. _____ p a p c e h s o a r
hint: *moves closer; comes toward*

10. _____ c t e r o d e t s
hint: *devices designed to recognize a tsunami form*

Name: _____

Terrifying Tsunamis

By Lydia Lukidis

In the article, "Terrifying Tsunamis," you learned that tectonic plates are responsible for causing earthquakes and tsunamis.

Using a science text book as a reference, describe another natural disaster that is caused by the activity of the Earth's tectonic plates. In your answer, be sure to explain how tectonic plates are responsible for that natural disaster, and what happens during the event.

Preview
Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

ANSWER KEY

Terrifying Tsunamis

By Lydia Lukidis

1. Based on the information in the article, which natural disaster is **not** responsible for causing a tsunami?

   a. tornado **b.** volcanic eruption
   c. earthquake **d.** glacial movement

2. Which of the following is true about tectonic plates?

Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

tsunami forming in the deep ocean or near the coast? Why is this the case?

You would be more likely to see a tsunami near the coast than in the deep ocean because the wave grows very tall by the time it reaches the shore.

4. Where would a tsunami be most likely to occur?

   a. Cuba **b.** New York City
   c. coast of Ireland **d. Indonesia**

5. A tsunami forms in the deep ocean, 1,500 miles off the coast of Sri Lanka. If the tsunami is traveling at 500 miles an hour, how long will it take the tsunami to reach the coast of Sri Lanka?

   a. 2 hours **b. 3 hours**
   c. 4 hours **d.** 5 hours

ANSWER KEY

Terrifying Tsunamis

By Lydia Lukidis

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. vegetation — g v t i a e n e o t
   hint: *all the plants in a particular area*

Super Teacher Worksheets
Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

hint: *the outermost layer of the Earth*

5. tectonic plates — c t i o c e t n l e p t a s
   hint: *pieces of the Earth's crust that move and shift*

6. massive — s m s a v e i
   hint: *extremely large in size or scale*

7. landslide — s l n a i d e d l
   hint: *natural disaster involving falling rock or earth*

8. Lituya Bay — u L y t i a a B y
   hint: *site of the largest tsunami ever recorded*

9. approaches — p a p c e h s o a r
   hint: *moves closer; comes toward*

10. detectors — c t e r o d e t s
    hint: *devices designed to recognize a tsunami form*